

MACDONALD COLLEGE JOURNAL



VOLUME 10
No. 5



JANUARY
1950

Farm · Home · School



THE MACDONALD LASSIE
BY ALEX. WOODS



The Challenge of Hunger

A few years back, many of us were looking forward to the day when the fighting would be all over. The statesmen of leading nations spoke of the bright new world of plenty which would grow out of the rubble of World War 2. And nation vied with nation in an all-out effort to help the common cause.

Trade barriers were torn down, financial gears were meshed and old economic rules were replaced by new systems in the face of necessity. Brains, money and manpower were pooled in one great effort to rid the world of aggression. And everyone doubled his efforts to speed the coming of the day when the lessons we had learned in our fight for survival could be applied to world reconstruction.

One phrase particularly had caught the world's imagination — a phrase uttered by one of the great statesmen of all time. It was "Freedom from hunger." On this base would be built a world where, assured of enough to eat, people could concentrate on building up the other precious freedoms. The impossible had been done time and time during the war — surely hunger could be banished from a peaceful world.

Japan capitulated, and then Germany. But still there was no peace. And people became so preoccupied with their personal problems, and statesmen so busy keeping their own countries from disintegrating when the common bond of war had disappeared, that the promises of a few years back were almost completely forgotten. At least, they almost disappeared from the memory of people in the more fortunate countries — the only ones who were in a position to make good the promises.

But could such a promise ever be forgotten by people who have never had nearly enough to eat? To us it was a great ideal; but to them it was a chance for survival. Their stomachs would not let them consider this subject objectively, even if they had the necessary information. To them the situation is painfully clear — they had been promised freedom from hunger, yet they were

starving in greater numbers than before.

World political situations mean nothing to these people. To them someone else's promise, still to be tested, may appear a better bet than ours, which they consider broken. And the word their leaders bring back from world conferences does little to make them change their minds.

The all-important subject of how hunger may affect impending history seems to have been forgotten — forced back by growing stockpiles of atomic bombs. So when a plan was proposed to the Food and Agriculture Organization, a plan to eliminate food surpluses in some countries while averting starvation in others — the leading surplus-producers failed to support it. Instead they substituted a scheme which, according to those in charge of it, has no chance of doing what is needed.

This has occurred at a climax in the struggle between Soviet Communism and the Western democracies — at a time when government after government has been upset and almost all of China has been walled in by the Chinese Red armies. The Reds have promised the Chinese food. So did we. But the Director-General of FAO was told on a recent visit to China: "You have not given us the food; maybe the others will."

Food is undoubtedly the biggest political weapon in a world where two-thirds of the population are undernourished. Surely we who believe in democracy are not going to overlook that important fact. Such an oversight would seem suicidal at a time when we are threatened with economic strangulation by food surpluses in some countries, and communist domination through starvation in others. Can we not revive enough of our wartime greatness to cancel out these twin menaces?

Our Cover Picture

The logging scene on the cover of this issue was taken by the National Film Board and, although it is a typical January scene, the exact locality in which it was taken is not given.

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The Macdonald College Journal is owned and edited by Macdonald College, and is published in Montreal, P.Q. All correspondence concerning material appearing in the *Journal* should be addressed to: The Editor, Macdonald College, Que.

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Subscription rate \$1.00 for 3 years. Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

Are Feed Grains Too High?



When livestock producers are complaining that feed costs are putting them in the red, this is a timely review of what's behind the feed situation, and suggestions for improving it. There's also a suggestion for a long-term solution.

by G. L. Burton and D. G. Campbell

THE price of feedstuffs has been creeping up during the past year. The retail price of a well known brand of 16 per cent dairy feed has advanced 25 cents per cwt. during this time. The reason — feed barley is 30 cents a bushel higher now than a year ago.

At the same time the average prices of livestock products are down some. Although fluid milk in the Montreal area still remains at \$4.10 per cwt., the average price of milk for secondary uses has declined from 15 to 40 cents per cwt. and hogs are off by nearly \$2.50 per cwt. with further declines in prospect. Because of the importance of barley in hog rations, the hog producer's position has been seriously affected by this concurrent increase in the price of barley and decrease in the price of hogs. The relationship between hog and feed prices was less favorable on December 15 than it had been at any time since December of 1947. It is not surprising, then, that farmers in Eastern Canada are concerned about rising feed costs.

Why Are Barley Prices Up?

The price of barley is up because supplies are down and demand is strong. A smaller crop of coarse grains, together with a reduced carry-over of old grain, has meant that about 60 million bushels less of oats, barley and mixed grains will be available for domestic use and for export than a year ago. It failed to rain in many parts of the Prairie Provinces this summer and the coarse grain crop in Eastern Canada was short as well.

Demand for feed grains is strong since farmers have more hogs to feed. There were 16 percent more hogs on

farms on June 1, 1949, than on June 1, 1948. Moreover, this last fall's pig crop appears to be up by about 16 percent over that of 1948. The numbers of poultry and milk cows on farms have changed little and, although there are fewer beef cattle in Canada this year, there are not enough fewer to have any noticeable effect on the demand for feed grains.

Too, there is a strong export demand for malting barley both in Canada and the United States and this demand is being met first, since barley for malting commands a premium over that to be used for feed. A substantial part of the present commercial stocks of barley is being held for malting.

There is plenty of feed grain in the United States; in fact feed supplies are at record levels and prospects are that there will be a *billion* bushels of old corn on hand in the U.S. next October 1. However, the Canadian farmer cannot get this corn at a price he can afford to pay. The U.S. Government is committed to support the price of corn at \$1.40 per bushel and there is a Canadian tariff of 8 cents per bushel as well as a 10 cent premium on American dollars.

Federation Surveys the Situation

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture called a meeting in Toronto during the first part of November to inquire into the high cost of feed. They reached the following conclusion:

"That, owing to the apparent over-all inadequacy of supply of feed grains, the meeting feels

it is in duty bound to draw the attention of the federal and various provincial ministers of agriculture to the situation; with a strong recommendation for some action to make adequate supplies of feed grains available to the livestock industry at prices within the reach of livestock feeders".

No suggestion came from the meeting as to what sort of action they deemed appropriate in getting adequate feed supplies to feeders at "prices within reach". The Dominion Government is already paying the freight on feed grains from the Lakehead, so something more than that would be necessary.

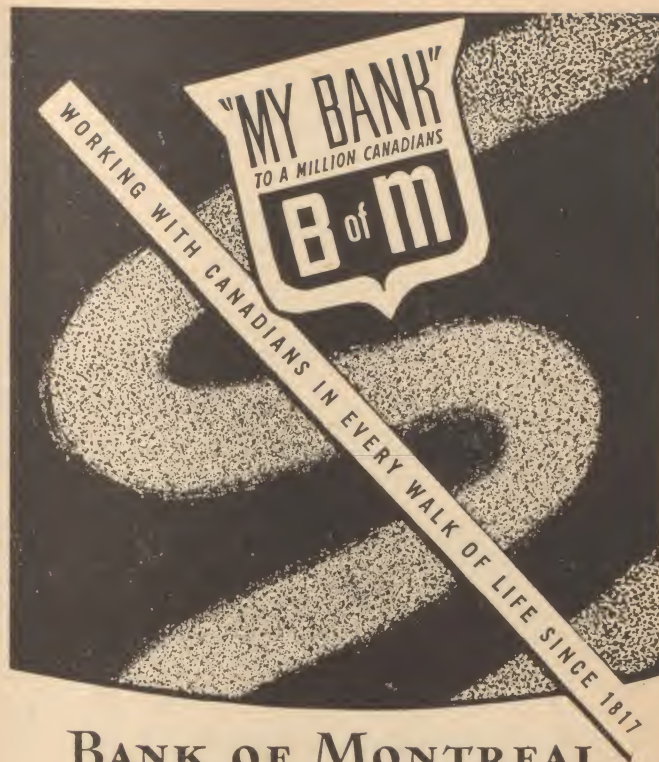
How Are Feed Grains Priced?

At the beginning of the new crop year on August 1, the Canadian Wheat Board became the sole commercial buyer of oats and barley in the Prairie Provinces at the insistence, and with the approval, of organized farmers across Canada. On August 4 the Wheat Board announced that it intended "to sell oats and barley freely and to the best advantage, using the methods which suit these purposes". The "methods" referred to included the futures market which continues to operate.

It is evident that the Board is selling its oats and barley at the best available price. The price charged appears to be intended to be just low enough to keep coarse grains moving. And the Board sells futures as well as cash grain; it will later redeem these futures contracts by delivering the actual grain as it moves into the Lakehead terminals. In other words the Board is using the open market to dispose of its holdings in much the same way as private traders would do. It's a pretty safe bet that feed prices would be just about the same as they are now if private companies and the Pools, rather than the Board, were marketing the crop "to the best advantage". Although oat prices have fluctuated within a range of 13 cents per bushel and barley 28 cents since the beginning of the crop year, some well informed people closely connected with the grain trade believe that price fluctuations might have been even greater if the Wheat Board had not been the sole buyer.

The futures market cannot be held to blame for the high price. Although private traders are still fulfilling delivery contracts which they had made prior to August 1, the Wheat Board is in a position to exert considerable influence upon the level of cash and futures prices since it controls the bulk of the supply. More than 95 percent of the commercial supplies of oats and barley originate in the Prairie Provinces and the Board markets all of this grain.

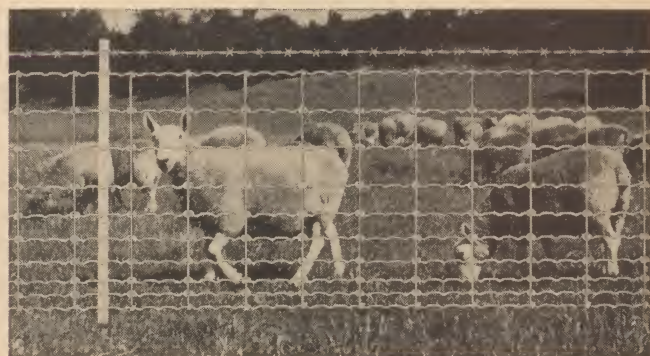
The feeder, then, is not the victim of any sinister plot. Feed prices are high because supplies are short, demand is strong and the Wheat Board is selling grain for the best price it can get. Even if the Board were to sell at a lower price there is nothing to prevent private traders



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from keeping the grain and re-selling to the Eastern feeder at a higher price, thus preventing the benefit from being passed along to the latter.

What's To Be Done About It?

There are two ways in which grain prices could be lowered this year:

- (a) The Government could instruct the Wheat Board to sell at a lower price. If the feeder were to get the benefit, price ceilings at the retail level would probably be necessary. Probably some compensation to the Western farmer would also be called for.
- (b) The Government might subsidize the importation of feed grains, perhaps American corn. This would cost the Canadian taxpayer money. It would also reduce the income of the Western farmer, since it would lower the selling price of his grain.

Neither of these suggestions is practicable. There doesn't seem to be anything that can be done about the price of feed grains this crop year. Is there anything to be done next?

At the recent Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference in Ottawa two divergent points of view were clearly evident. Some Western farm leaders, mindful of the less-than-market prices at which Canadian wheat is being sold both for domestic use and for export, were opposed to any ceiling being placed upon the price of

coarse grains.

Delegates from Eastern Canada, together with some Westerners, stressed the difficult position of the hog feeder who does not know the future price of either feed or hogs when he breeds his sows. These men wanted forward prices established for feed grain, if not for hogs. To remove the effects of export demand they suggested a two-price system for feeds — one price for the Canadian feeder, another for the foreign buyer. None of the supporters of this proposal, however, appeared to have worked out the details of such a scheme.

We believe that both of these groups have a valid point. The grower of coarse grains is entitled to the best price to be had. On the other hand the attractiveness of raising hogs would be enhanced by a bit more certainty as to future feed prices and this greater attractiveness would increase the domestic market for feed grain.

Nature will continue to give us fluctuating yields but the effects of such fluctuations on prices could be lessened by storage. Some feed grain might be stored in years when crops are large and prices low, and sold when crops are small and prices high. This kind of storage program would lower high prices in short-crop-years and raise low prices somewhat in large-crop-years. There are difficulties involved, of course, but these difficulties may not be insuperable. The possible gains suggest that some such plan should be considered.

Community Tools Used in Course

by J. S. Cram

Ways of helping people to enjoy themselves together, so they'll be readier to work together, were stressed at the Christmas Short Course at Macdonald College this season. The success of this approach was seen in the enjoyment which the students got out of the sessions on community music and community art, and in their comments at the end of the course.

There were 45 men and women from 18 to 70, drawn from almost every section of English-speaking Quebec, from Calumet Island in Pontiac county to Barachois, out near the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula. They represented Farm Forums, Women's Institutes, the Red Cross, home and school associations, the National Film Board, church groups, junior clubs, local libraries and many other local organizations. But by the end of the week they had been welded, almost to the last one, into a closely-knit group, through the very process they were learning to use.

At the very beginning, after they were welcomed by Dr. W. H. Brittain, vice-principal of Macdonald College, the purposes of the course were explained by Professor H. R. C. Avison, Director of Adult Education at the College. He outlined the course, showing how the various parts fitted together — talks on the farm, the school and the church in the community, sessions on community recreation, art and music, and discussions and work sessions on community organization. While learning how

to do new things, they would also extend their information and their experience in dealing with groups.

Part of this experience was gained in actual administration of the group. People were asked to volunteer for the various jobs connected with the course, so they could get experience of the particular type wanted. There was a different chairman for each day, giving a chance for this type of work to Peter Clark, Magog; T. McNaughton, Dalhousie Station; Daniel Elder, Atholstan and Herman



Painting a backdrop for a dramatized act.

"The church must look to the earth, since the soil is basic to all our lives," said Mr. Peacock. He explained that people who live on run-down soil are inclined to degenerate, but that when the soil is improved the people's health and intelligence also go up. So no plan for making people's lives more abundant would have much chance for success unless it was based on the soil. In the United States, he pointed out, the government was extending its

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conservation program, because of the soil's importance to the nation as a whole. And he urged church members to see that their organizations did something about improving the soil.

How people could get recreation and information right at home was covered by Miss E. W. Loosley of Macdonald College in her talk on the community bookshelf. Although challenged by film and radio, she said that books were still an important way of getting information and ideas. The importance of books was shown by the fact that the law required everyone to learn to read and write; but there was no law to see that people were provided with books after they left school. And since few rural people had ready access to books in which they were particularly interested, much of the value of their education was lost.

She suggested, since buying books is so expensive, that groups such as farm forums should start small reading circles, with each member adding a book regularly. The Information Service at Macdonald College would be glad to suggest suitable titles and to place orders.

Every day, along with these talks, films were shown and everyone took part in three workshops — community recreation, community music and community art. In the recreation, which was led by Miss Louise Colley, Director of Recreation for Simcoe County, Ontario, people learned how to do games and dances suitable for use with many types of groups, and also how to teach these games and dances. And despite a shortage of girls which made it necessary for some of the fellows to take girls' parts in dances, they thoroughly enjoyed the process.

The community art sessions under the leadership of Miss Elizabeth Jaques, art instructress in the School for Teachers, started out by doing posters for community events, and ended up with painting a background and preparing paper costumes for a stage presentation. Everyone found these pastimes stimulating and helpful —



something they could readily use at home. Many of them also enjoyed clay modelling and finger painting, but few saw how these could be applied in community work.

In the community music Mrs. D. L. MacFarlane taught quite a number of songs, and encouraged many of the participants to try leading. She pointed out that anyone who could tap his toe in time to the music could lead a song. Then, all through the sessions, she encouraged everyone to tap their toes, and later to beat out the measure with their hands. As a result, people found they could do it quite readily; they lost their shyness, and several got up and directed songs.

Each evening started off with a film and discussion, sometimes in small groups, sometimes as a whole. Through this technique people were better able to connect the points made in the film with conditions in their own communities. Films shown and discussed covered recreation, agriculture, education and the beautification of farm homes.

In the final session of the week, the crowd was broken down into small groups for discussion of the course. From these discussions it was evident that community recreation was the most popular subject, followed by community organization. The reasons given for these choices was that they would be of most use in dealing with groups back home.

Found Easy Way to Feed His Cows

The puzzler of how to get tightly packed hay easily and quickly from the mow to the cow has been solved on an Iowa dairy farm.

W. P. Fulton does it simply by a reversal of the hay-storage procedure. Fulton uses his hay hoist, an extra trip on his hay track, a grapple-type fork, rearranges pulleys and cables, and does in 20 minutes what used to take him about two hours.

The hay hoist and motor remain in a stationary position. It is a brief matter to rearrange the pulleys so that they take out of the mow hay they once put in.

Two Hay-Driers

About 150 feet long, Fulton's barn has two hay-drier installations. As hay dried artificially has a tendency to pack tighter than that dried in the field, Fulton had a long, back-breaking job moving the hay to his 64 dairy cattle before he developed his present system.

One man operating the motor-driven hay hoist and using the grapple-type fork can move one day's supply — about 1,700 pounds of hay — in three forkfuls. The job takes about 20 minutes. The motor runs not more than five minutes during the operation.

The hay must be pulled almost straight up to loosen it, and to move it in big bunches to a hay chute. About 20 minutes, each morning and night, is needed for one man to move the hay into the mangers at feeding time.

Book Hungry?

By E. W. Loosley

What do rural Canadians read? That's a very important question, because Canadian thinking depends very largely on what Canadians read — as well as see and hear.

A group of rural people at the Macdonald College Christmas Short Course gave some very serious thought to their own reading and the book resources of their local communities. The results are most interesting. Here are some of the findings.

Rural Canada is poor in books, very poor indeed. There are very few public libraries, although there are often books in the schools (which are not always available to the grown-ups). There are scarcely any book stores or lending libraries. The Travelling Libraries operating from Macdonald College can reach only a small minority of the rural population.

Because there are no good libraries, reading is limited to magazines, newspapers and fiction. The fiction is not always of first rate calibre, nor very recent. Detective and Westerns head the list, with a sprinkling of historical novels. "David Copperfield" was the only "classic" mentioned among the group of forty or more people — and how many excellent novels of high literary merit have been written since that date! Few of the group bought books, or had them available in their homes.

"Readers' Digest" and "Family Herald" topped the list for newspapers and magazines. Almost everyone read some other farm magazine, and, of course, the local papers. But not one person mentioned "Maclean's Magazine", with its emphasis on current events in Canada. For their opinions on world affairs, outside of the farm press, rural people seem to depend on American, rather than Canadian sources.

Agreed More Books Needed

Almost everyone agreed that more books were needed. Good fiction, stressing adventure, travel, and our own history. Technical books on agriculture, emphasizing the scientific aspects of farming. Books for children and young people.

Asked how such books could be provided, the group thought that some form of travelling library supported by provincial funds was the answer, although several members said that efforts to encourage reading through the Farm Forums and other local organizations should be the first step in the direction of library service for rural people.

If your community is interested in getting books, the findings of this group of rural people are very important. While library service on a province-wide scale is still in the future, there are many steps any community can take, while waiting, to help fill the book gap. The Information Service, Adult Education Service, Macdonald College, can suggest ways of planning a book service for your neighbourhood.



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*Casida, McShan and Meyer (1944), *J. Animal Sci.*, 3:273.

A New Deal for Hogs

Building up a regular supply of hogs, improving grades, and lowering costs through full use of equipment and labour — these are the aims of a new type of co-operative in Manitoba.



Some of the gilts bought for use in the Red River Co-operative Pig Hatchery at Morris, Man.

MOST people like to eat — and eat regularly. What's more, they like to be able to get their favourite foods, particularly when all food supplies are very low, and there's little variety. If, after shelves have been filled for a few weeks, they remain empty for several months people aren't going to be very happy about it. It hurts them in an extremely vulnerable spot — their stomachs.

That's just the situation Britishers have been facing with Canadian bacon. At one season we make heavy shipments; then for a long time we export almost nothing, and they have to go without the bacon they need to fill out their slender rations.

This isn't much of a way to keep a valued customer, in the opinion of a group of farmers in Manitoba. They don't blame the British for trying to get bacon supplies elsewhere, when they can't depend on our shipments. Instead, these farmers blame our sporadic system of hog raising; and they intend to do what they can to change it.

They've worked out a simply but well developed scheme for assuring uniform supplies of market hogs the year around. It's meant to eliminate the big reason for seasonal fluctuations — the fact that few farmers can successfully farrow and raise litters in cold weather. Their idea is to have the pigs farrowed and raised to six or eight weeks in a co-operative central plant.

This is the first attempt at launching a co-operative pig "hatchery" in this country. But some private plants have been operating as hatcheries with considerable success. And since the new plan puts the business on a much broader basis, it seems to have a good chance of clicking.

The Red River Valley Co-operative Pig Hatchery at Morris has been set up with a membership of 50 farmers and a board of seven farmer directors. It has the support of the Manitoba Pool Elevators, whose long experience in handling farm products has shown the advantage of keeping supplies going through in a steady stream.

The hatchery is starting with 75 good sows. They will be sheltered in an outdoor but draft-free shed during most of the winter, and will run on alfalfa pasture in the summer. A few days before a sow is due to farrow she will be put into an artificially heated, Danish style piggery known as the maternity ward, where the pens are specially fitted for farrowing and looking after suckling pigs.

By spacing the breeding program over the year, the

best possible use will be made of the buildings. With an eye to expansion, the co-operative has decided that about 50 pens, fitted with electric hovers and creep feeders arrangements, should handle 200 brood sows — or 400 litters a year. But at present it has only a small maternity ward in a rented building.

To work out the details of the plant a committee of technical men from the dominion and provincial departments of agriculture and the university was appointed. This committee will buy all the breeding stock and recommend rations for members of the group to feed.

The members of the co-operative have contracted to buy three lots of weanlings a year, taking them at six to eight weeks of age, already inoculated and vaccinated against disease. So, when a farmer takes a load of hogs to market he'll be able to take a load of weanlings home from the pig hatchery, thus making full use of his buildings and labour.

Each member has paid \$5.00 in advance for each weanling ordered, to cover the cost of breeding stock. Next year if all goes well with the scheme, \$5.00 shares will be sold, and the money used to erect new buildings.

The weanling pigs are being sold to the members at cost, charging the going prices at the time of sale and making a patronage refund at the end of the year, on a revolving fund basis.

The present set-up is regarded as a pilot plant to provide the information needed before launching into a large scale scheme. Assistance in the organization and management of the plant during its first year is being given by the Livestock Department of the Manitoba Pool Elevators.

The progress of this scheme will certainly be worth watching. It appears to offer farmers an assured supply of well bred pigs and advice on feeding and management which should result in a considerably bigger turnover of high-grading hogs.

If it proves successful in Manitoba there's no reason why this system should not be adopted elsewhere in Canada, to take the speculation out of the pig business and make this country a dependable supplier of high grade pork products.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

Dwindling of Food Contracts Brings Worries

This is it. We've always feared that the readjustment of Canada's agriculture to peacetime conditions might be difficult. Now we have to make that readjustment; and it's likely to hurt a lot of us in our most vulnerable spot — our pocketbook.

That's what the conclusions of the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference boiled down to. Some of the people there tried to break down this unpleasant picture by suggesting alternatives. But most of these alternatives had already been explored, unsuccessfully; and others would bring on a mass of complications. There seemed to be no escape from the conclusion that the market for our farm products is going to dwindle, taking prices down with it.

Counting delegates and observers, over 150 people took part in the three-day conference. All ten provinces were represented, Newfoundland being especially welcomed on its first official participation in this conference. And this was the first conference since Dr. J. G. Taggart became deputy minister of agriculture.

As usual the Right Honourable J. G. Gardiner, Canadian Minister of Agriculture, was the key man. Right at the outset he described Canada's export position. We could deliver 140,000,000 bushels of wheat to Britain this year under the four-year contract. But no other contracts had been signed.

He went on to say that Britain had only \$27,500,000 to spend in North America for food products other than wheat. But Britain wanted to spend it all on cheese, and was prepared to buy the cheese in the United States if a satisfactory deal could not be made with Canada. He pointed out that this would buy 100,000,000 pounds of cheese — twice as much as last year's shipments; but that our dairy industry ought to be able to export at least that much.

But he left a very strong impression that Canada would get the cheese contract only if it could meet competitive prices. Later he quoted some comparative figures. Last year's export price was \$30 a hundredweight which, with the premium, brought the price to Canadian farmers up to \$34.05. Compared with this, Australia's price was \$19.20, the Netherlands \$32.70 and New Zealand's \$21.80; and the U.S. support price was \$31.75.

As for bacon, Britain had made no provision whatever to buy a pound of bacon in Canada. With her shortage of dollars, this was understandable from the prices she

had been paying. Canadian bacon has cost Britain \$36.00, Irish and Dutch \$30.90 and Polish \$30.50.

However, Canada had suggested delaying delivery of some of the contracted wheat, and diverting the funds for purchases of other products, including bacon. Britain had expressed readiness to discuss taking some bacon under this arrangement, if fish and soft wood were also involved — but no eggs. Under present conditions, they just didn't want our eggs.

Summing up, there was a reasonable chance of getting a contract for all the cheese we could export, although this might involve taking a lower price; and there was some hope of getting rid of some bacon, also at a reduced price. But there appeared no hope of selling any poultry products or apples to Britain.

The inconsistencies of the world food picture were pointed out by Norris E. Dodd, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He stated that while the world's food production was just back to the 1939 level, population has risen by 200,000,000. To make matters worse, while those well-fed before the war are now still better fed, those who were previously undernourished are now starving faster than ever.



Quebec delegates included: Front, left to right: Pierre Labrecque, Chief of Animal Husbandry; Rene Trepanier, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Georges Maheux, Director of Information and Research. Standing: J. Ernest Dube, Chief of the Propaganda Service; Dr. J. M. Veilleux, Chief Veterinarian; and Henri Dubord, Chief of Marketing.

Dodd had suggested an international clearinghouse for food, which would make it possible for countries of short supply to get at least part of what they needed from surplus producers. But this scheme had been turned down by FAO — and it was strongly hinted that two of the world's largest surplus food producers, Canada and the U.S., had been mainly responsible for killing it. In its place a committee had been set up to do what it could to make voluntary deals between hungry countries and over-stuffed countries; but Dodd did not appear to place much faith in its ability to do very much.

Dodd's talk brought out a point that rose many times during the conference, and was felt in the background all the time — the fact that, with so many people still starving, there were no such things as food surpluses. Man after man hurled himself against the barrier of international exchange. But although everyone recognized it as the root of the problem, it was also apparent that the conference couldn't do much about solving it. The solution must await the world's political leaders, whose actions would depend on the knowledge and the temper of their people. And until the world's great democracies had reached the stage where they would support a positive solution, not much could be expected from others.

The only other answer appeared to be retrenchment. Again and again it was brought out that farmers do not like to reduce their production. So if their markets contract, prices drop; and then they need to produce more to keep their standard of living from dropping out of sight.

But there was one answer to the problem of how to keep going with lower prices. It was brought up by Rene Trepanier, Quebec's new deputy minister of agriculture; and although it was passed over without much comment, a great many people agreed that it would have to be applied. His answer was more efficient production, so that people could accept a lower price without taking so great a loss.

But Mr. Trepanier did not place all the onus for this more efficient production on the farmer. He showed how governments could help to improve productivity through constructive policies. He cited freight assistance on feed grain shipments to Eastern Canada; soil conservation to maintain or improve production, and involving low-priced lime, drainage programs and more reasonable fertilizer prices. He mentioned grass research, to enable farmers to get more from their land, seasonal tariffs to protect Canadian producers who operate at a disadvantage, and price support, to maintain production of key products until markets can be secured for them. And he stressed the necessity of making every possible effort to discover trade outlets and to solve the exchange difficulties.

Most of these points were touched on by other speakers; but Mr. Trepanier's main contribution was his statement that extension workers could show farmers how to lower



The Canadian Federation of Agriculture representatives.

their cost per unit of production. Although all the governments represented are doing some agricultural extension work, this was the first time in several years that the subject of agricultural extension has been directly mentioned at the conference. And yet, as Mr. Trepanier pointed out, our survival as an agricultural nation may depend on improvement of our extension services.

Dr. H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, pointed out that farm families face loss of markets while the other sections of our population enjoy boom prices, boom wages and boom profits. Farm prices have dropped nine points in the last year, while farm costs have increased two points.

"Farmers got gypped at the beginning of this boom period," said Dr. Hannam, "and yet they are now to be the first to take the rap at the end of it. That is why Canada has every right to be generous in applying price supports now to agricultural commodities."

Reviewing the outlook for Canadian farming in 1950, Dr. J. G. Taggart suggested there was no cause for extreme pessimism. While it was true that the time had perhaps arrived when it would not be possible for farmers to get the security through food contracts which they had enjoyed since the war, nevertheless, the picture was not all black.

Canadian agriculture, he said, was in a strong financial position; debt structure had been reduced; and a large backlog of machinery and equipment had been acquired — mostly for cash or for large down payments.

The domestic demand for food in 1950 would probably equal the high level of 1949, though there would probably be some restriction in export trade. It should not be overlooked, Dr. Taggart warned, that the buyer has the final say as to what he will buy, and Canadian agriculture must have sufficient flexibility of production that shifts and adjustments can be made to meet changes in demand.

Poultry Industry Presents Its Products

A consumers' exhibition, sponsored early in December, was the Quebec Poultry Industry Committee's latest way of publicizing poultry products in this Province. For two days the Cardy Room of the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal was jammed with housewives (a considerable number of husbands, too), who came to see the exhibits and to watch and learn from the demonstrations how to buy, prepare, cook and serve poultry.

Differing from last year's exhibition, which was more of a trade show, this year's project was directed right at the housewife who does the buying and cooking. All along the walls were tables flanked by gleaming refrigerated show-cases filled with all kinds of poultry products, turkeys, roasters, broilers, pheasants, ducks, geese. At the tables demonstrations were given continuously, from early afternoon until late in the evening each day. Demonstrators were dietitians on the staff of the Consumers' Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, under the capable direction of Miss Laura Pepper, and from the Provincial Household Science Service at Quebec. Trim in spotless white uniforms, they really did an excellent job.

One display which the spectators found it hard to leave was the one prepared by the students of the Provincial Home Economics School of Montreal. On a long table, with a Christmas centerpiece, they had prepared samples of chicken, turkey, and other poultry meat in just about every form imaginable. It was a good example of what can be done when one has the time to do it. There were chicken pies, patties, jellied chicken in moulds of all sorts. There were glazed and decorated turkey pieces, chicken in aspic, chicken, ham and tongue combinations in jelly, all excellently prepared and presented, for the most part, on silver plates or trays. There were even a pair of roast pheasants whose heads, and wing and tail feathers, had been replaced.

At one of the tables a demonstration of sandwich mak-

ing (using turkey and chicken meat as filler, of course) was in full swing. The demonstrator, switching from French to English with no trouble at all, turned out, without any apparent effort, all kinds of fancy sandwiches, explaining each step as she went along.

The Department of Agriculture, Poultry Division, had a booth showing just what one gets in the different grades of poultry carcasses, and demonstrated how eviscerated and cut-up poultry meat should be prepared and wrapped for sale. A display of broilers, and talks about the many ways in which they can be used, attracted many visitors.

How to prepare a fowl for roasting interested a lot of people. It came as a surprise to most to learn that if the wishbone is taken out before the bird is put into the roasting pan, the job of carving is much easier, the slices are more uniform, and the reputation of the carver is much enhanced!

What to do with the increasingly popular chicken pieces was very clearly shown. These individual cuts for quick, economical, individual servings can easily be ruined if they are not cooked properly, but there should be no trouble for cooks who watched this demonstration closely.

Samples of ducks and geese, properly prepared and cooked, and various ways of presenting game birds, were on display in the showcases, and the attendants were ready to answer every question — and there were a lot of questions.

A demonstration of carving performed by Prof. Maw might have been advertised as "magic with a knife", and when, after having carved a roast turkey down to the skeleton, he proceeded to build the bird up again almost as good as new, the crowd really showed its enthusiasm.

The Department of Agriculture was represented by Deputy Minister Rene Trepanier, who brought greetings from Minister Barre, and his best wishes for the success of the work of the Committee.



Deputy Minister of Agriculture Trepanier opens the exhibition sponsored by the Quebec Poultry Industry Committee.



The demonstration of sandwich making kept the crowd's interest at a high level.

Report From The Sugar Refinery

Nothing succeeds like success, the old saying goes, and the operations of the Quebec Sugar Refinery bear this out. Word is getting around that sugar beets are a paying crop, and whereas by February last year no contracts had been signed for the 1949 growing season, by the first of December this year 1700 farmers had already signed up for more than 9000 acres of beets to be grown for the refinery in 1950.

The plant is still working below capacity, but it processed a crop of 68,500 tons of beets in two months from the middle of October. At \$13.00 a ton, this means almost \$900,000 in the farmers' pockets. The refinery pays at the rate of \$6.00 a ton in December, and the other \$7.00 comes in February.

The first beets were delivered at the factory on the 3rd of October, and all that month the road leading to the refinery was clogged with trucks of beets. On one particularly heavy day, 650 trucks unloaded 4200 tons of roots.

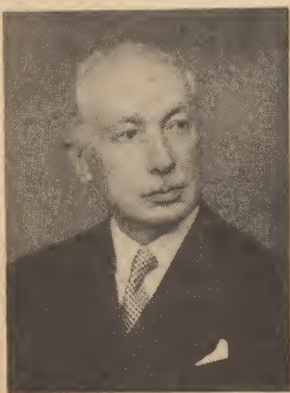
Sugar content of the beets was a little lower this year, but still satisfactory at from 15% to 15½%. The average in 1948 was 17%. But there was enough sugar in the beets to make 17 million pounds of granulated sugar,

which was sold in 100 pound cotton bags, and in bags of 5 and 10 pounds, all clearly marked as a product of Quebec. In addition, 3,000 tons of molasses, 3,500 tons of beet pulp were made, and the total value of all these products amounts to \$1,600,000.

Most of this money remains in the hands of the farmers. Apart from what the growers got, the refinery paid out some \$150,000 in wages to local labor; it takes 300 men to keep the plant running. There were 12,000 truck loads of beets delivered, which represents another \$100,000 to the truckers. Some beets came by freight — 105 carloads of them, and it will take 200 freight cars and 100 tank cars to ship out the beet pulp and molasses. The refinery's two months of operations consumed 8,000 tons of coal and 6,000 tons of limestone, which came by truck from St. Dominique, and it takes 175,000 cotton bags to ship the sugar, plus 70,000 jute bags for the beet pulp. The sugar is delivered by truck to all parts of the province, but particularly to Montreal, Quebec and Chicoutimi.

Prospects for the 1950 season are bright, and the authorities at the plant are estimating a crop of better than 100,000 tons from 12,000 to 13,000 acres next summer.

British Guest



A recent visitor to the Department of Agriculture offices in Quebec was Sir Daniel Cabot, from 1939 to 1948 Chief Veterinary Officer of the United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture, and an outstanding figure in international veterinary science. Sir Daniel came to Canada from Washington, where he attended the FAO conference.

At Quebec he met members of the Health of Animals Branch, including the assistant director Dr. E. Turgeon and Dr. F. Trudel, chief of the veterinary laboratory, with whom he discussed questions of mutual interest touching on the health of animals with special emphasis on T.B., and other contagious diseases of dairy cattle.

He was a supper guest of the Quebec branch of the Corporation des Agronomes, to whom he spoke on present-day agriculture in England, and its evolution during the war years. His talk, given in perfect French (Sir Daniel was born in Jersey of an English father and a French mother), was followed by a very profitable and enjoyable discussion period.

Regional Winners In Barley Contest

First results of the preliminary judging in the Quebec area of the National Barley Contest have been announced, and are as follows:

District 1, which includes the counties l'Assomption, Joliette, Drummond, Two-Mountains and Yamaska — first prize, Eustache Desnoyers; second, Pierre Tellier, Ste. Elizabeth de Joliette; third, Leo Brault, St. Guillaume.

District 2, including Terrebonne, Pontiac and Gatineau — first, Ste. Therese Seminary; second, Orville Smart, Shawville and third, Odessa Alary, Luskville.

District 3, including Chateauguay and Beauharnois-Soulanges — first, Henri Brault, Ste. Martine; second, Real Primeau, Howick; third, Cedars Orphanage.

District, including Laval, St. John, Laprairie, Rouville — first, E. Joly, St. Vincent de Paul; second, Roger Roy, Lacadie; third, Louis Pasquier, St. Hilaire.

District 5, including Vercheres and Chambly — first, V. Gagnon, Vercheres; second, Ernest Brodeur, Beloeil; third, Albert Girouard, St. Antoine sur Richelieu.

District 6, St. Hyacinthe — first, Elphege Lagace, St. Hyacinthe; second, Donat Giard, Ste. Rosalie; third, Jean Paul Nichol, St. Thomas d'Aquin.

Two hundred and forty-one farmers in thirty counties in the province entered the contest this past year. The three first prize winners in each district will compete in the provincial contest which will determine who will go on to the eastern zone finals later in the year.

Strippings

by Gordon W. Geddes

At last electric lights are shining on our hill. Little by little they have been spreading around the countryside until we could look out in all directions and see the neighbours' lights but now they can see ours. It certainly makes a big difference and saves a lot of steps. Some jobs in the barn can be done better at night by the light than they can in the daytime. Anywhere in the barn we can travel right along with both hands free for the job, not one hand on the lantern. One of the R.O.P. inspectors made a remark which I didn't appreciate as well then as I do now. He asked if we had two lanterns so we could use one of them to find the other (both of them lighted). Now I see what he means.

We aren't getting full benefit of the labour-saving on pumping water as yet. We still have to throw the switch but it is easier than starting the engine. The automatic switch is waiting for the electrician to connect but he came once and didn't bring any wire and hasn't been back. He must have been a plumber before he turned electrician. In preparation for his return we have installed another labor-saver which we would have used before if we had thought of it. This is a check-valve in the pipeline between the pump and the pressure tank. Before we had a hand-valve and had to walk the length of the barn to close it and open it each time we stopped or started the pump. The check-valve lets the water through when we pump but won't let it back when we stop.

The only fault we have found with electricity so far is the cost and we haven't got the bill for wiring yet or the first bill for power consumed so we're still enjoying the benefits without worrying about the cost. After seeing how light the barn was, I wondered if one might not easily save the yearly cost of power by noticing sick animals more quickly and saving losses in that way. A few small pigs saved, or a market hog or something of that nature would be a big help.

MORE EGGS HATCH WITH **"MIRACLE" HATCHING MASH**

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MORE CHICKS LIVE WITH **"MIRACLE" CHICK STARTER**

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PULLETS GROW FASTER WITH **"MIRACLE" GROWING MASH**

Keep building a profitable flock. Speed the day your pullets lay with Miracle Growing Mash. Fed to pullets from the time they're taken off Miracle Chick Starter until about their twentieth week, Miracle Growing Mash gives them the vital food elements that build growth quickly. It ensures sturdy, large-framed birds able to withstand heavy laying.



HENS LAY MORE WITH **"MIRACLE" LAYING MASH**

Once pullets have started to lay, they need a ration that will complete their body growth, maintain their health, and at the same time give them the extra elements needed for the production of eggs. In other words they need Miracle Laying Mash — the fourth step in your profit-building feeding programme. Feed Miracle Laying Mash for higher, faster egg production.



Unfortunately it wasn't long before we began to notice some sick animals. First diarrhoea broke out in the pigs and then in the cattle. We never saw pigs have it so badly. The first treatment was iron of course though they didn't look pale at all. When that didn't do a bit of good we talked to the 'vet' on the phone. He said it was indigestion from too heavy feed. Incidentally it might be well to say what the feed was for the benefit of someone else. We had been using shorts and barley but corn turned up as a better buy. We were a little doubtful about corn for younger pigs but consulted our library of feeding bulletins. These listed corn as one of the safe feeds that might form the entire basic ration for any age of pigs if properly supplemented. So we replaced some of the barley with corn and in a few days trouble started.

Anyway the vet said to give them just ground oats and lots of soda and water and they would be all right. We tried that for several days along with some lime water and diarrhoea tablets. No good so we phoned again and asked about sulphanilamide. Should help if they had a temperature. So we got out the thermometer and they did. The next thing was sulpha and soda which seemed to help but we can't say yet what the final result will be. Certainly it seemed as if they were hopeless cases until they got the sulpha. When I spoke about Ivan's little boy saying 'Gosh sakes alive!', he said that's what you say when you look in the pig-pen, 'Gosh sakes, alive I hope!'

Meanwhile the young cattle were having the same trouble. We had the rest vaccinated as it can be quite a serious matter. Sulpha cured the first lot but it broke loose in the calves in spite of the vaccination. However the same remedy seems to have checked it and the bright spot was that it didn't affect the cows at all so won't be hard on the cream cheque.

Mr. Robert from the Dep't. of Agriculture was here to complete our farm plan for crops next year in the farm competition. He did not ask us to change our present rotation as he

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thinks it is a good one. It is five years, two in grain and three in hay with a small plot of turnips and potatoes. Part of the hay goes in the silo and soil erosion is less than if we grew corn. We hope to have a pasture rota-

tion that will leave a surplus of grass early in the year to put in the silo. One must have a surplus in the spring to insure enough grazing later on but the surplus must be mowed off early in order to have any growth later.

Taking the Barn to the Cows

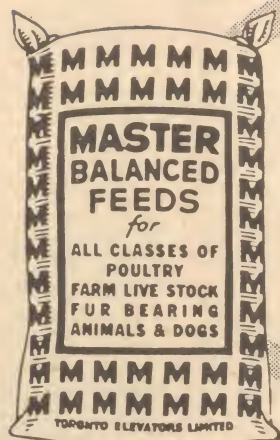
by W. E. Whitehead

It is not an uncommon sight to see a farmer, or his wife, sitting on the familiar tripod stool milking cows in the pasture. At the Experimental Station, Kentville, N.S., milking machines and their accompanying equipment are transported to the pasture and there the milking takes place. Steps in the procedure are illustrated as follows:

1. This picture shows the portable, sheet iron structure with the cows waiting in a temporary lane. On entering the animals go up a ramp on to the milking platform, which is above ground level and later, leave by the opposite end when they are back again in the pasture.

2. The trailer, showing the machinery for operating the milking machines, backed up to side of the building. When milking is finished, milk and equipment are packed in the trailer and taken to the dairy.

3. An end view of the building showing the position of the two stalls on the raised milking level, the operators working on ground level and the trailer at the side.



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4. Showing cows in the stalls, milking machine connections and the relative positions of the operators and the animals.

At the British Empire Dairy Show at Belleville last November, Quebec cheesemakers took the first eight prizes for September and October cheese, competing with cheese-makers from all parts of Canada. Of the 100 exhibitors, 23 came from this province.



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Canadian Soil Easily Destroyed

"North America is a vulnerable continent," says Dr. O. M. McConkey, Professor of Field Husbandry at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. Dr. McConkey returned recently from China, where he spent two years in agricultural rehabilitation work as advisor to the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. After his experience in China and his observations in the near East, Dr. McConkey on his return saw this continent with new eyes, and he saw a great need for more forage crops to protect our soil.

"Our soil mantle," he says, "can easily be wasted unless we take every precaution now and in the future to preserve it. Our soil is more easily destroyed than that of Europe, because in Eastern America man has cut away much of the natural forest cover, and in Western America there is a high proportion of plains subject to soil erosion from high velocity winds."

In Eastern Canada, he points out, our rainfall often comes in heavy, eroding rains of 2 to 4 inches, and also as splash thunderstorms which cause erosion — not like the gentle, misty rains of Europe. And we have cleared too high a proportion of our land and used it for growing easily eroded crops; this has resulted in a heavy run-off of water from melting snow which has no trouble in making its way over bare, frozen ground and causing destructive floods and erosion.

When the first settlers came to Eastern Canada nature was in equilibrium following a million years of adaptation and colonization by the natural vegetation, forest cover and wild life, says Dr. McConkey. There were many clear running streams and springs, no floods or erosion. Nature was in balance.

But when the early settlers began to cut away the trees and break the land the balance of nature was upset, and trouble began. Now in the spring there is great loss of water through run-off, followed by a deficiency of moisture from July to September, when pastures and crops suffer from drought. The deficiency during this three-month period is 6.8 inches at Harrow, 2 inches at Guelph and 5.6 inches at St. Catharines.

This deficiency could be eliminated, erosion checked and fertility built up through greater use of legume crops. Experiments at Zanesville, Ohio, have shown that when land is seeded continuously to corn 42.2% of the water from rain and snow runs off, carrying with it 94.6 tons of soil per acre. But when the land is seeded continuously to grass only 4.8 percent of the water from precipitation runs off, and its soil load is only .02 ton per acre. This shows the effectiveness of forage crops in holding moisture and checking erosion.

A similar test on a 10% slope at Ottawa showed that while land under corn suffered losses of 433 tons of water and 49.9 tons of soil an acre, fields under alfalfa

"JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nofziger



Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"That's right, Sprout—cut the high sprout, less danger of rot in the low sprout."

lost only 56.4 tons of water and .1 ton of soil. So there's little doubt about the effectiveness of legumes in conserving soil and water under Eastern Canadian conditions.

Dr. McConkey points out also that pasture and hay crops furnish our lowest cost feed for both summer and winter, our lowest cost soil-building crops, our best crops to improve the soil's fibre structure, tilth and fertility, and that the deep roots of alfalfa and sweet clover break up hard pan and increase aeration, subsoil moisture and drainage.

Manure Is Valuable

A ton of barnyard manure is equal to 100 pounds of 10-5-10 commercial fertilizer. Furthermore manure adds to the soil high-quality organic matter and important soil bacteria not provided by commercial fertilizers.

Some farmers seldom put much manure on their land because they are always busy with other work at the season it would be best to apply manure. But others have found that they could still get something out of it, even if they spread it on top of the snow.

They reason that it's better to get half value from it than to let it accumulate year after year, without making any use of it.



THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*

A Fresh Outlook

by Hazel Coates

When the Federated Women's Institute in convention at Saskatoon decided to re-arrange the departments of Institute work, they chose the name, Cultural Activities, for projects in education, drama, music, and related subjects. Although this does not affect our educational work in the province, it may be a good time for us to consider our activities and see if our horizon is as broad as it should be.

Our new F.W.I.C. Convenor, Mrs. Prescott, of Baie Verte, N.B., asks that we begin our study programme by learning the names of those who make up Canada's Royal Commission on Arts, Letters, and Sciences, and that we familiarize ourselves with some of the most notable contributions these people have made to our Canadian Culture. Do you know something about this Commission? Tell it at the next W.I. meeting.

As to the work recommended, let us continue our effort along the same educational lines as before. We are already much interested in scholarships. Just consider what these grants mean to many students. The price of board, clothing, books and fees, make it a real problem in the ordinary family to send the children through college. I believe we all agree that helping an ambitious, conscientious boy or girl to higher education is one of the finest things a Women's Institute can do. So, let us try to have more scholarships — one or more in every county, if possible.

Mrs. Prescott speaks of the Music and Drama Festivals as an excellent activity for our youth. Here, in Quebec Province, this work has hardly taken root in our Institutes. I wonder if we cultivate music in our homes and in neighbourhood groups as much as our parents did. Are we not inclined to listen to the radio more than to provide music ourselves? There is, naturally, a place in our life for radio listening, but it should not push aside active participation in music and drama groups. Can't we lend our influence in this direction? The amateur entertainments formerly provided in most rural localities were too good to be forgotten. Can we not help to revive these? Thus musical and dramatic talents get some encouragements.

In rounding out our cultural programme, libraries, museums and the National Film Board all have their places. Are you, in your community using what is within your reach? We know that what we see is generally imprinted clearly in our minds, so let us encourage our

young people to glimpse constructive ideas, visually and mentally.

There are still more paths of Canadian culture that we could explore; but if we begin along these familiar lines, we can travel far, even to United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and find how Canadian achievement is related to that.

Above all, remember that each effort you make towards a better educated Canada is worthwhile. Years ago, Dr. Johnson expressed our position aptly when he wrote; "He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do any". So, it's up to us to make beginnings.

Provincial News

Essay Contest

Several things have been happening recently of provincial interest, about which our members will like to hear. First, the winners in the essay contest sponsored by the Q.W.I., "The Countrywoman's Day", have been announced by the executive. As will be recalled in the instructions sent each branch the three best essays submitted were to be sent to A.C.W.W. headquarters in London where there is to be an international prize awarded for the best entry from the various constituent societies. Miss Ruth M. Low, Assistant Supervisor of English for the Department of Education, was asked to judge the Quebec entries. 18 essays were submitted and the results, based on interest, vivid presentation and careful construction, are as follows: 1st, Mrs. Anne E. Wilson, Cavagnal W.I., 2nd Mrs. A. Graham, Frontier W.I., 3rd, Mrs. Clive Smart, Stark's Corners W.I. Honorable mention: Mrs. Velma F. Bell, Fordyce W.I. and Mrs. Thelma Bowen, Ascot W.I.

Gift to Denman College

The second item is the gift of a rug to Denman College. Ever since the opening of that institution, members of the Q.W.I. have been following its work with keen interest and as an expression of this friendliness the suggestion was made at the last meeting of the Provincial Board that a rug should be sent the College to assist with the furnishing of a new wing that is being added. This idea was enthusiastically received and a committee, consisting of the provincial convenor of Home Economics, Mrs. T. H. Kirby, Cookshire, and Mrs. Geo. Leggett, Lachute, president Argenteuil County W.I. was chosen to select one

suitable for that purpose. The rug has now been purchased from the Canadian Handicraft Guild, Montreal, and shipped to Miss Elizabeth Christmas, Warden of Denman College. This was a hooked rug, made from wools, 27 by 43 inches in size, and of a typically Canadian design. Mrs. Leggett, in sending the greetings accompanying the gift, expressed the interest taken by the Q.W.I. in this project of the English Institutes and wished them every success in the work they are striving to accomplish.

Student Bursaries

And, finally, the Q.W.I. bursaries of \$50 each in the B.Sc., (H.Ec.) and Diploma Course in Agriculture at Macdonald College, have been awarded to the respective winners: Miss Mildred Lyster, Trenholm and Mr. D. Cousens Sweetzburg. A special award of \$25 was also given Miss Nina Banfill, North Hatley, for her work in second year of the Home Economics at the same institution.

The Month With The W.I.

February, 1950, the "Baby" month, will be visiting us with its snow storms and St. Valentine parties, when you read this story of November news. 19 counties have been heard from, and that is a splendid turnout! With new branches reporting — and how welcome they are, we are still determined that every one must be mentioned, but the "squeeze-play" on space is greater than ever. With your kind permission, dear reader, reference to donations to the Watt Memorial Scholarship and the Q.W.I. Service Fund will be omitted but be assured they were gratefully received and the branches are to be commended for supporting these worthy projects.

Argenteuil: Arundel reports a most enjoyable open meeting, very well attended, when Mr. Staniforth gave an illustrated talk on his trip across Canada. Brownsburg made donations to the Grace Dart Hospital and Frontier held a delightful Hallowe'en party and Junior Amateur night, with prizes and refreshments. Jerusalem-Bethany heard an instructive paper on "Canadian Citizenship", and sent a donation to the Salvation Army. Lachute reports a similar donation, and were addressed by Mrs. Coderre-Smith in aid of Save the Children. Lakefield packed their overseas Christmas parcel and voted money for the County Scholarship Fund. Mille Isles enjoyed a visit from the county president, Mrs. Leggett, who spoke on W.I. work. Morin Heights raised the sum of \$109.50 which was donated to the Fire Brigade, and enjoyed a paper on Newfoundland at their meeting. Pioneer made donations to the Children's Memorial Hospital and the annual school milk fund. Dr. Fitzgerald spoke on Health and Welfare. Upper Lachute & East End had an entertaining evening when films on their own district and other points of interest were shown.

Beauharnois: Nitro, newly organized, and so welcome,



Members of Sherbrooke County W.I. at the 1949 Convention at Macdonald College.

started out with a programme on Education. A talk on school work was given by Miss Enright, principal of the school to an interested group of members.

Bonaventure: Black Cape is our next new branch, and they report getting off to a flying start with 15 members. We hope to hear from this branch very often. Marcl sponsored "Poppy Day" in their district, and an article "Our Veterans and their Poppies", was read at the meeting. New Carlisle sent overseas parcels, and the members participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremony. New Richmond gave 47 book prizes in the local schools, and have asked for another parcel address through the W.V.S. A successful shower was held for the local hospital, and the president, Mrs. R. L. Montgomery, prepared a radio broadcast entitled "Books". Port Daniel heard a paper on Denmark and a quiz "Locating places which appear in the news" was another item of the programme.

Brome: The one branch reporting, Sutton, has been busy with overseas parcels. (Isn't it wonderful to think of all this Christmas cheer going from the branches). A White Elephant table was held to raise funds.

Chat.-Huntingdon: Aubrey-Riverfield sent an overseas parcel containing two hams! The members enjoyed a talk by a Latvian lady who told of her country's dreadful experiences during the past war years. She showed examples of Latvian handicrafts. Dundee reports a meeting with items from all convenors, and a contest on current events — the winner being the oldest member. There was a discussion on helping the community, suggestions for inexpensive Christmas gifts and a jam and jelly shower for the hospital. Hemmingford sent their usual overseas parcel and packed the annual county Christmas box for England. Mrs. L'Esperance, newly arrived from the old country, gave a delightful talk on "What the Institute means to me". Howick reports a large attendance at their meeting which featured Remem



Members of Cookshire Branch W.I.

branch Day. The Rev. C. L. Taylor gave an address, and the poem "In Flanders Field" was recited. Ormstown sent off their final instalment on their donation of \$350 to the local hospital building fund, and the Rev. T. Knowles gave a talk appropriate to Remembrance Day.

Compton: Brookbury celebrated its 30th anniversary with an oyster supper. Congratulations! Bury entertained members of Les Cercles des Fermières and report that the Thrift shop is doing splendidly. A sunshine basket was sent to a sick person. Canterbury presented a life membership to a charter member of 35 years ago. Two parcels were sent overseas. East Angus held a paper drive and rummage sale to raise funds. South Newport presented a member of 84 years with a birthday cake. Two parcels were sent overseas. Scotstown heard an interesting talk by Miss Start of Colstock, England, on Institute work in her home town. Scotstown sent a food parcel to this English Institute for distribution. They also donated \$46 to their local library. Sawyerville entertained the county semi-annual, at which all branches planned to enter exhibits at the Cookshire Fair. Mrs. Abercrombie, the Prov. Treasurer, was the guest speaker and gave a talk on her trip to Saskatoon.

Gaspe: Two branches reporting. Wakeham held four bridge parties which netted \$60 for general funds and \$25 was donated to the Community Christmas tree. York also donated to their community tree, and packed boxes of good things for the sick and overseas.

Gatineau: We would like to congratulate Aylmer East on its 24th anniversary, which was celebrated at the last meeting. A history of the branch was given, and there was much pleasant reminiscing. Kazabazua is holding a series of card parties to raise funds; and sent a special box of Christmas goodies to their "overseas" family. Rupert voted prizes for attendance at three district schools. A Hallowe'en dance was held in the W.I. hall to raise funds. Five dozen bulbs were carefully planted by the members at the Union Cemetery (We hope they all bloom) Wakefield had "An Antique and its History" as rollcall. One treasure shown was a New Testament with notes by John Wesley, dated 1789. There was a hand-carved wooden egg-cup over 100 years old, and many other lovely things. The school lunch is a W.I.

project here and it will interest other branches to know that Wakefield has estimated it will cost \$22 per month to serve one hot dish daily to the 50 children who take their noon lunch at the school. Wright reports a splendid rollcall and discussion "Why Canada may well be called a Land of Promise". A fine address on Citizenship was given by the Rev. Robert Mackie.

Jacques Cartier: Ste. Anne's reports a large meeting, and all members busy with the Christmas bazaar, which is a great success annually. The parcel was sent overseas, and a wreath laid at the Cenotaph on Nov. 11. Mrs. F. Griesbach, the branch president, had the honour of being presented to His Excellency, Viscount Alexander and his Lady, after the Armistice service.

Megantic: Inverness sent a Christmas parcel overseas, and members shared their favorite recipes with each other. The County semi-annual was held at Lemesurier, with most gratifying reports given by the executive and convenors for both branches.

Missisquoi: The president of this County W.I., Mrs. C. Farnam, gave a radio broadcast entitled, "Legal Status of Married Women in Quebec Province". Cowansville held a reception for the High school teachers, with a lunch and musical programme. St. Armand sent a Christmas parcel overseas and Stanbridge East reports 14 of their members went "over the border" to visit a meeting of the Home Demonstration Group of Georgia, Vermont. At Fordyce the annual food and fancy work sale took the place of the regular meeting, and was most successful.

Montcalm: Rawdon is establishing a bursary of \$100 to assist a local boy who wishes to take the agricultural course at Macdonald. Good work, Rawdon! Donations were made to the Jr. Red Cross and to the three local churches for the Children's Christmas tree. A "Beauty Demonstration" was held.

Pontiac: Elmside sent a clothing parcel to England. They also report donations of money toward "adopting" a European child and the hospital at Shawville. The Bristol Busy Bees gave a Hallowe'en party for the school



The active group at Richmond Hill taken beside their Hall. The president, Mrs. McIvor, is second lady from the left in front row.



Eardley members proudly display the felt bags made in their course given by Miss Birch, who is shown from left at back. Mrs. Austin Lusk, a former Provincial President, is in centre front and on her left the oldest member, Mrs. Muldoon, 86, who took shellwork.

children, giving prizes for the best costumes. Mr. J. Jordan, Principal of Shawville High School, addressed the monthly meeting on "Fifty Years Progress in Education", while Clarendon had the pleasure of hearing the same speaker in a most interesting history of Newfoundland. Judge Allen Fraser gave a talk on Juvenile Delinquency to the members of Quyon. Wyman heard readings at their meeting dealing with citizenship, and held a contest. That glorious hymn, "O Valiant Hearts" was sung to mark Remembrance Day. Fort Coulonge heard a paper on Welfare and Health, and sent off their English parcel.

Richmond: Cleveland reports sending two Christmas parcels and Dennison's Mills enjoyed a Singer Demonstration. Gore held a card party and Spooner Pond made donations to the Richmond Junior W.I. and the Salvation Army. Shipton held a Tea, and Richmond Hill members donated gifts to help W.I. funds. Melbourne Ridge sent four Christmas parcels overseas, and the "Juniors" at Dennison's Mills held a very successful Hallowe'en dance. (It is very heartening to hear of Junior activities).

Rouville: Abbotsford reports a large attendance at their meeting, and an interesting talk on the manufacture of brushes was given. The Diet Dispensary of Montreal is richer by 25 jars of jelly from this branch. The regular parcel was sent, and in addition, over 20 gifts packed and sent to an English family.

Shefford: Granby reports a very successful food and fancy work sale, which yielded \$109.88 for the branch. A Christmas box was sent overseas, and \$10 donated to the Salvation Army. Warden held a card party and sent parcel overseas. The members enjoyed a paper on Newfoundland, and their rollcall was "Name your birthplace" which always provides interesting conversation.

Sherbrooke: Ascot had a display of work done under the direction of Miss Birch during the handicraft classes. Dr. Masters was the guest speaker and addressed the meeting on the history of Bishop's University. Belvidere

held a darning contest and "Penny Sale". Brompton Road produced a marvellous array of baskets of vegetables, which were given to the V.O.N. Cherry River held a card party and sale to raise funds for Christmas activities. Lennoxville is compiling a cook book and Milby had an apron sale and sponsored a Hallowe'en party. 35 members from Sherbrooke Co. motored to Barton, Vt., for a friendship visit with the Orleans County Home Demonstration Club. The W.I. members in this county also provided refreshments for 150 donors at the recent "Blood Clinic" with special assistance on the part of Lennoxville and Ascot.

Stanstead: Ayer's Cliff made plans to help with the school lunches, and held a reception for the teachers. Prizes were donated to the school, and special boxes sent overseas for Christmas. Beebe also sent parcels, presented prizes to school children, and remembered their president's 35th wedding anniversary with flowers. Minton made donations to both current funds mention in opening paragraph while Fitch Bay awarded prizes to pupils in the school. Stanstead North heard a talk given by Mr. Heath of U.S. Customs, on the subject of United Nations. Mr. Heath had just returned from a U.N. session and spoke very informatively. Way's Mills realized the wonderful sum of \$100 by catering for the Ploughman's Association oyster supper. Tomifobia weavers are making towels for the next sale; and this branch held a successful auction sale and card party.

Vaudreuil: Cavagnal members had a Wear-ever Brush demonstration, which yielded funds for the branch, as did an oldtime style Bean-Supper. Four Christmas parcels were sent overseas. Vaudreuil-Dorion featured "Publicity" at their meeting to acquaint new members with the workings of the W.I. The Annual Card Party was a great success with a large attendance, and over 50 donated prizes were distributed to the lucky winners.

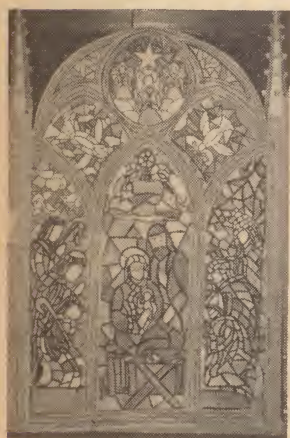


Eardley W. I. gathers for a course in felt and shellwork with Miss Birch, who is shown at extreme left at back.



THE COLLEGE PAGE

Christmas at Mac



This is being written in the quiet time just after the excitement of getting the College closed for the Christmas holidays. Halls and classrooms are deserted. The students have packed up and gone home; those whose homes are too far away for them to spend the holidays with their families are, for the most part, spending the vacation with friends. Staff members

are taking things easy for a few days, and making preparations to resume their teaching duties with the re-opening of classes in the New Year.

The quiet of the present is in marked contrast to the busy weeks just before the holidays, when Christmas decorations appeared suddenly on all sides. In the residences, Christmas trees were hung with lights and ornaments; plans for the holidays were made; gifts were exchanged, and Christmas parties were the rule.

The School for Teachers makes preparing for Christmas a part of its regular teaching programme. These students will have their own classes to direct next year, and they need to be shown how to help their pupils prepare Christmas plays and pageants; how to make decorations for their classrooms; and they will have to be able to teach their pupils to sing the Christmas carols that everyone loves. This year the staff of this School went to great lengths to demonstrate how all this can be done.

For example — some classes made decorations for the Christmas tree using nothing but coloured paper and light cardboard. It is amazing how many attractive ornaments can be made of these simple materials. And, using poster paint, they covered the glass in the classroom windows with cheery Christmas scenes.

On December 20th, they organized a Chapel Service to which were invited all students and staff members of the College, and at which the speaker was the Rev.

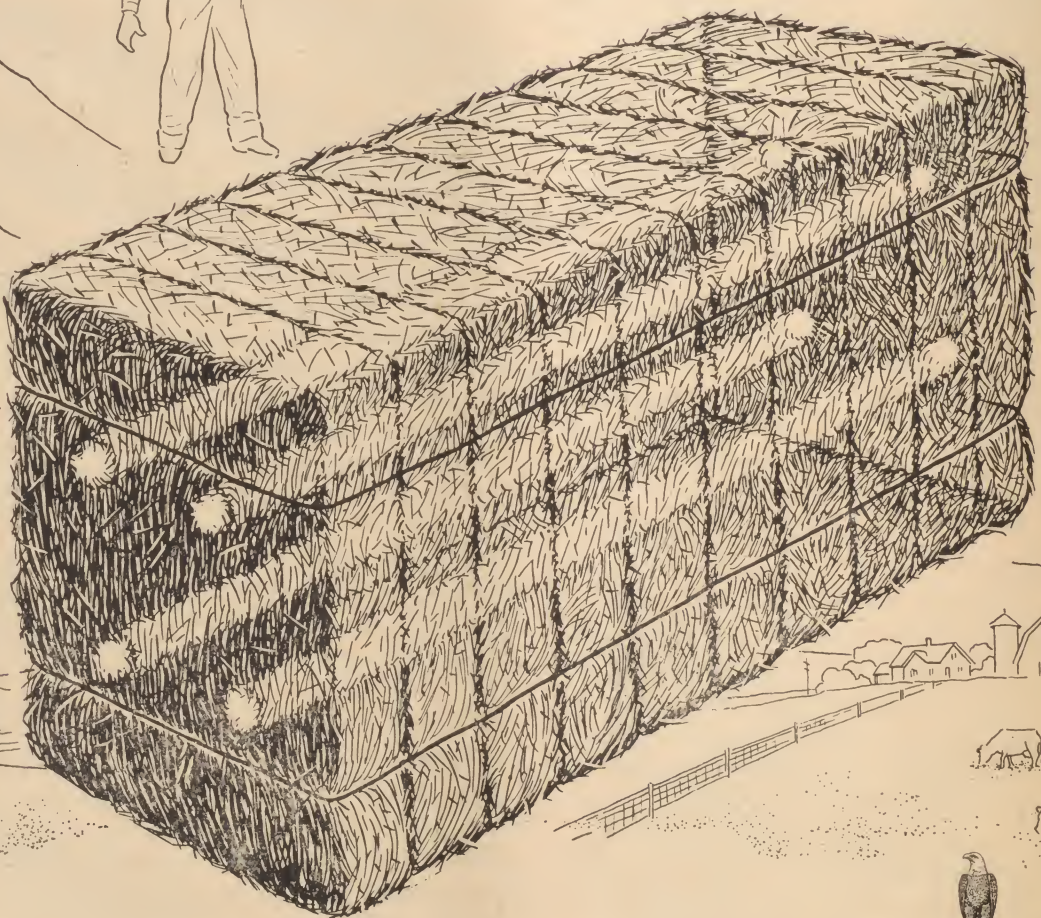
James S. Thomson, Dean of the Faculty of Divinity of McGill. He brought a message which was an inspiration to all his hearers. Mindful of the fact that he was speaking to teachers in training, he made the point that you can teach anything to anybody, if only you can explain it to your listeners in words they can understand. He elaborated his theme with frequent references to the life and achievements of Helen Kellar, but throughout his address kept always before his audience the inspiration that comes from Christ, the Great Teacher.

A Christmas Assembly was held on December 21st. As in all the other Christmas activities, the primary purpose of this was to show the students how they could prepare similar programmes for their pupils. This took the form of a Christmas pageant of the Nativity, with appropriate readings from the Scriptures, and the singing of carols by a volunteer choir. The carols were chosen to include Christmas songs from as many countries as possible, and as each was being sung, groups of students, dressed in replicas of the national costumes of the country represented, came into the Hall and grouped themselves around the manger. All the costumes were made by the students, using brown paper and poster paint, and the effect was very striking. Even the shepherds' crooks were merely long tubes of rolled paper painted the appropriate shade of brown. The pageant unrolled before a "stained glass" window, which is shown in the illustration at the top of the page. Once again, this was made of nothing more than paper and paint, but, as can be seen even in the small illustration, the effect, especially with a strong light shining through from behind, was spectacular.

It should be pointed out that although all these projects were carried out for the Christmas season, the same type of thing can be used for many different purposes in the teaching of many of the subjects on the school curriculum.

The mechanics of publication are such that by the time this page is being read by our subscribers, all these activities will be things of the past, and the chief topic of conversation around the College will be the examinations; the most commonly heard question will be "When will the results be out?" So, in the first College Page of the New Year, we should wish everybody, everywhere, the Compliments of the Season, and express the hope that 1950 will be a year of peace, happiness, and prosperity for all.

New Challenge to Farming in the 1950's



● Here are four empty holes, full of promise to widen the horizons of grassland farming. They challenge you ...the leaders of tomorrow's agriculture...to find in their four-fold void the vision of soils guarded from erosion, water resources conserved, livestock husbandry given a lift, farming made more prosperous.

With these air tunnels through the dense center of the bale, final curing in storage is faster, more nearly uniform clear through the bale. It widens the margin of safety, reduces the possibility of mold in the bale center, gives greater assurance of bright, sweet hay with full measure of nutrients, vitamins and minerals.

When hay is cut at the peak of protein content and baled before exposure invites leaching, bleaching and loss of leaves, it reduces the need for soil-depleting grains and costly concentrates. As the ventilated bale widens the margin of safety, it widens the acreage adapted to hay crops, widens the margin of profit in producing meat and milk. All this is part of the challenge in the new farm-ways dawning for the 1950's.

Ventilated bales are the result of years of development by Case engineers. Two years of testing by an agricultural college compared ventilated bales with conventional bales of the same hays, handled and stored the same. Professional graders found the hay in ventilated bales of consistently higher average quality. All Case Slicer-Balers are now built with Bale Ventilator. It also is available for installation on machines in use. J. I. Case Co., Toronto, Ont.



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